

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063831
ORIGIN EA-09

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/065 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JSBOARDMAN:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ
EA/P - MR. MAGRUDER (SUBS.)
P - MR. O'DONOHUE
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
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O R 222352Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: MYONGDONG CASE

REF: SEOUL 2290

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING SUPREME COURT
DECISION ON MYONGDONG CASE:

BEGIN QUOTE

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE UPHOLDING BY THE
KOREAN SUPREME COURT OF THE SENTENCES IN THE
MYONGDONG CASE?
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PAGE 02 STATE 063831

A. WE HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS CONVEYED TO THE KOREAN
GOVERNMENT OUR CONCERN OVER THIS CASE AND OVER THE
WELFARE OF THE PRISONERS, WHO INCLUDE WELL-KNOWN
POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES. OUR CONCERN IS
NATURALLY HEIGHTENED BY THE SUPREME COURT DECISION
CONFIRMING THEIR SENTENCES, AND WE OBVIOUSLY WILL

CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT OUR INTEREST IN A SATISFACTORY DISPOSITION OF THIS CASE.

Q. WHAT RECOURSE DO THE DEFENDANTS NOW HAVE TO AVOID PRISON SENTENCES?

A. CLEMENCY COULD BE GRANTED AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. HAVE WE PRESSED THE ROKG TO GRANT THE DEFENDANTS CLEMENCY?

A. I WOULD RATHER NOT GO INTO SPECIFICS ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS CASE. END QUOTE.

2. NO QUESTIONS ON KOREA WERE ASKED AT MARCH 22 NOON BRIEFING.
VANCE

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NNN

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